



State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**  
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Peter McWalters  
Commissioner

**September 11, 2006**

**To: Superintendents**

**From: Peter McWalters, Commissioner of Education**

**Subject: Constitution Day and Citizenship Day: September 17**

**Constitution Day and Citizenship Day** is a federal law enacted in 2005 that requires all schools and universities that receive federal funds to hold educational programs for their students on September 17 of each year. The law is included in Section 111 of Pub. L. 108-447 (Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2005). The U.S. Department of Education has published additional information about the law at [www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html](http://www.ed.gov/legislation/FedRegister/other/2005-2/052405b.html).

Since September 17 falls on a Sunday in 2006, educational institutions may hold their educational program during the preceding or following week, between Monday, September 11 and Friday, September 22. The guidelines presented by the U.S. Department of Education give teachers and schools the freedom to design **Constitution Day and Citizenship Day** programming that will best meet the needs of their students.

There are many resources available on why the Constitution was written, how it describes the structure of our government, and the rights and responsibilities of citizens. Here is a sampling for your information.

Center for Civic Education [www.civiced.org](http://www.civiced.org)

Close Up [www.closeup.org](http://www.closeup.org)

Constitution Resources [www.ed.gov/free/constitution/index.html](http://www.ed.gov/free/constitution/index.html)

Constitution Rights Foundation [www.crf-usa.org](http://www.crf-usa.org)

First Amendment Center [www.firstamendmentcenter.org](http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org)

Justice Learning [www.justicelearning.org](http://www.justicelearning.org)

National Constitution Center [www.constitutioncenter.org](http://www.constitutioncenter.org)

The Campaign for the Civic Mission of Schools [www.civicmissionofschools.org](http://www.civicmissionofschools.org)

The U.S. National Archives [www.archives.gov](http://www.archives.gov)

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